

Appl. No. 10/632,278
Atty. Docket No. 8830C
Amdt. dated July 01, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 2, 2004
Customer No. 27752

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to more specifically characterize the present invention. Support for this amendment is found in the Specification, as exemplified by page 5, lines 17-19.

In addition, Claims 2-7 have been added. Support for these amendments is found in the Specification and Drawings.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 remain in the present application.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103(a) Over Skog

The subject Office Action states that Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Skog (US 6,290,687). More specifically, the Office Action states:

Skog discloses a method of dynamically pre-fastening disposable articles having a slot-and-tab fastening system as the articles are driven forward at a relatively high velocity along a predetermined path; the method comprising the steps of providing a disposable absorbent article being folded longitudinally into a bi-fold configuration (Fig. 1); inserting at least a portion of a tab member (Fig. 6; via outwardly projecting portion 46 and 47) of the slot-and-tab fastening system (Fig. 6; via system 38) through a slot (Fig. 6; via apertures 44) of the slot-and-tab fastening system by positioning the slot member with a slot locator and by guiding the tab member with a guiding rail (Fig. 6; via walls 42 and 43 guide the tabs 46 and 47 to slots 44) and a folding board (Fig. 6; via the bottom plate 41 can be considered as folding board, because it folds or bends the tabs in its way to the slots 44); while holding the portion of the tab member being inserted through the slot, moving the slot member of the article opposite to the direction of insertion of the portion of the tab member until the slot of the slot member passes, beyond a lip portion of the tab member to effect a complete insertion of the tab member through the slot member and to effect a closed configuration of the slot-and-tab fastening system forming a pre-fastened disposable absorbent article, see for example (Figs. 1 and 6) it is obvious that in order to ensure complete fastening for the absorbent article as shown in Fig. 1, both of the tab and slot member as shown in Fig. 6 have to move in opposite direction in order to effect a closed configuration of the slot and tab fastening system 38.

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Applicants respectfully assert that the present invention is directed to method of using manufacturing equipment which includes a slot-locator to align tab and slot fastening members to create a pre-fastened disposable absorbent article. In contrast, Skog discloses an absorbent article comprising tab and slot fastening members having alignment means. Skog does not disclose a method of using such manufacturing equipment to align tab and slot fastening members, particularly at relatively high speeds of at least 200 feet per minute. Rather, Skog teaches how a caregiver may herself align the tab and slot fastening members when applying a diaper on a baby.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully assert that the present rejection is overcome and that currently-amended claim 1 is allowable. Since newly-added claim 2 depends from claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 2 is similarly allowable.

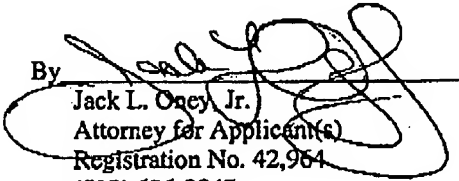
Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 103(a). Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 1-7.

Respectfully submitted,
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